AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   ((Previously presented)) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image information input means for receiving image information;

an image information storage means for storing the image information input through the image information input means;

an image processing means for processing the image information stored in the image information storage means;

a status manager means for managing the status of the image processing apparatus; and

an image information erasing means for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means,

characterized in that the image information erasing means is adapted to erase the image information in accordance with the status of the image processing apparatus managed by the status manager means,

an interrupt commanding means for giving an order of a job interrupt; and

an interrupt job monitoring means for monitoring the status of the interrupting job directed by the interrupt command means,

wherein the status manager means comprises a time counter means for measuring the inactive time in which the image processing apparatus is not operated by users,

the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the time measured by the time counter means exceeds a predetermined period, and

if an interrupting job is directed by the interrupt command means before elapse of the

predetermined period, the interrupting job is preferentially performed,

wherein the status manager means comprises an erase command accepting means for

accepting a user erase command for erasing the image information stored in the image

information storage means, the erase command being manually entered by the user after the

image processing means has processed the image information.

2.   (Previous presented) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further An

image processing apparatus comprising:

an image information input means for receiving image information;

an image information storage means for storing the image information input through the

image information input means;

an image processing means for processing the image information stored in the image

information storage means;

a status manager means for managing the status of the image processing apparatus;

an image information erasing means for erasing the image information stored in the

image information storage means,

characterized in that the image information erasing means is adapted to erase the image

information in accordance with the status of the image processing apparatus managed by the

status manager means;

an interrupt commanding means for giving an order of a job interrupt; and

an interrupting job monitoring means for monitoring the status of the interrupting job

directed by the interrupt commanding means,

wherein the image information erasing means implements erasure of the image

information in accordance with the interrupting job status monitored by the interrupting job

monitoring means.

3.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when the

amount of information of the interrupting job monitored by the interrupting job monitoring

means is lower than a preset amount, the image information erasing means erases the image

information of the interrupting job stored in the image information storage means before return

to the job before interruption; and when the amount of information of the interrupting job

monitored by the interrupting job monitoring means exceeds the preset amount, the job before

interruption is restored before erasing the image information of the interrupting job.

4.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the image

information erasing means is constructed such that whether the image information of the

interrupting job stored in the image information storage means should be erased first before

return to the job before interruption when the interrupting job monitoring means determines that

the interrupting job has been completed or whether the job before interruption should be restored

first before erasing the image information of the interrupting job, can be selected in advance.

5.   (Canceled)

4   CG/RWD/kpc

6.   (Original)   The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises a time counter means for measuring the inactive time in which the image processing apparatus is not operated by users, the time counter means starts counting from when the interrupting job monitoring means determines that the interrupting job has been completed, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the time measured by the time counter means exceeds a predetermined period.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The image processing apparatus according to Claim 5 1, wherein the status manager means comprises an erase command accepting means for accepting a user's erase command for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the erase command accepting means receives an erase command, while the measured time by the time counter means has not exceeded the predetermined period even if the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the measured time by the time counter means is determined not to exceed the predetermined period.

8.   (Original)   The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises an erase command accepting means for accepting a user's erase command for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means, the erase command accepting means accepts an erase command when the interrupting job

CG/RWD/kpc

monitoring means determines that the interrupting job has been completed, and the image

information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage

means when the erase command accepting means receives an erase command.

9. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the status

manager means comprises a power source monitoring means for monitoring the status of the

power source, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in

the image information storage means, utilizing the period from the time when actuation of the

power saving mode is monitored by the power source monitoring means to the time when the

operation returns to the normal mode.

10. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status

manager means comprises a power source monitoring means for monitoring the status of the

power source, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in

the image information storage means, utilizing the period from the time when actuation of the

power saving mode is monitored by the power source monitoring means to the time when the

operation returns to the normal mode.

11. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the status

manager means comprises a cancel command accepting means for accepting a user's cancel

command for canceling the operation of the image processing means, and the image information

CG/RWD/kpc

erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when

the cancel command accepting means has received a cancel command.

12.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status

manager means comprises a cancel command accepting means for accepting a user's cancel

command for canceling the operation of the image processing means, and the image information

erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when

the cancel command accepting means has received a cancel command.

13.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

        an image information input means for receiving image information;

        an image information storage means for storing the image information input through the

image information input means;

        an image processing means for processing the image information stored in the image

information storage means;

        an image information erasing means for erasing the image information stored in the

image information storage means; and

        a time slot manager means for ~~determining~~ managing time slots ~~as time periods~~ in which

the image information erasing means is ~~scheduled to be~~ operated,

                said time slot manager detecting if a predetermined time of day has been reached

or detecting if a predetermined continuous idle time period after completion of processing has

been reached,

wherein

if said predetermined time of day has been set and is reached, said image

information erasing means is operated during a time slot starting at said time to erase the image

information stored in the image information storage means, or

if said predetermined continuous idle time period after completion of processing

has been set and is reached, said image information erasing means is operated during a time slot

starting after said idle time period to erase the image information stored in the image information

storage means.

14.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the time slot

manager means includes an operational status manager means which manages the operational

status of the image processing apparatus during its activation to determine the time slots in which

the image information erasing means is to be operated.

15.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the time slot

manager means sets up the time slots in which the image information erasing means is to be

operated, based on the past operational log.

16.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the time slot

manager means sets up the time slots in which the image information erasing means is to be

operated, based on the past operational log.

CG/RWD/kpc

17.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein when the

image information erasing means is inoperable, the time slot manager means waits to actuate the

image information erasing means until the image processing apparatus permits the image

information erasing means to operate.

18.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein when the

image information erasing means is inoperable, the time slot manager means waits to actuate the

image information erasing means until the image processing apparatus permits the image

information erasing means to operate.

19.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein when the

image information erasing means is inoperable, the time slot manager means waits to actuate the

image information erasing means until the image processing apparatus permits the image

information erasing means to operate.

CG/RWD/kpc